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Wednesday, November 18, 2015 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

PICTURE PERFECT HOLIDAY

How to have a Pinterest-worthy Thanksgiving. 24

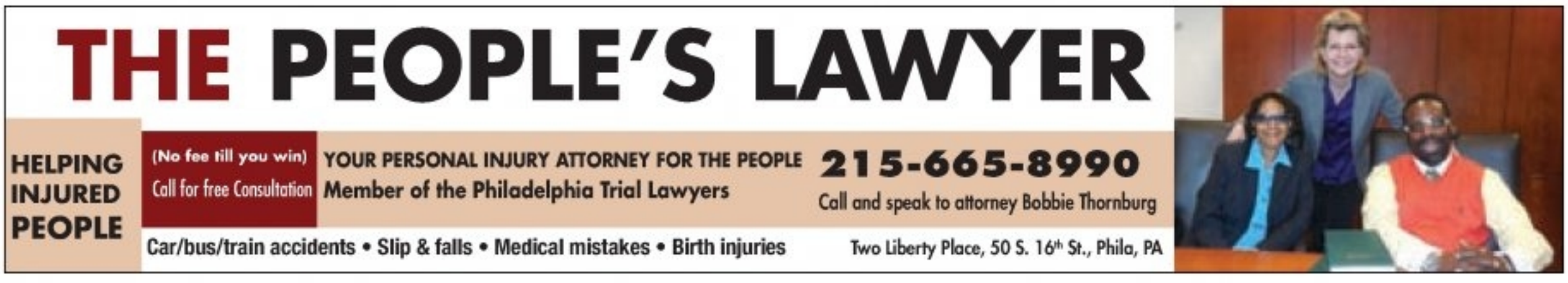
Simon Pegg says he's more than a geek. 17

Eagles free-fall in NFL Power Rankings. 28-29

CHAMPS WITH NO TROPHY

A tough-as-nails football team of West Philly 9-year-olds is calling foul after their league canceled playoffs that could have brought them to Disney World. 6-7

CHARLES MOSTOLLER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PORNGATE ONLINE

1 The National Organization for Women's Philadelphia chapter went live with an online petition calling on DA Seth Williams to fire three city prosecutors involved in the Porngate email scandal and "restore public trust" in his office. NOW President Nina Ahmad said the petition was pushed out Tuesday. JASON NUCKOLLS

ONLINE HOLIDAY FRAUD

2 Attempts by criminals to steal payment card information to commit fraud online are likely to rise, according to research by ACI Worldwide. The move by merchants and card issuers to switch to more secure chip cards for in-store purchases this year is likely to increase fraudulent attempts on transactions online. The research showed fraud rates by volume for transactions that don't involve physically swiping a card have increased in 2015, with one of every 86 transactions a fraudulent attempt. REUTERS

LYFT'S RISING REVENUE

3 Ride-hailing app Lyft, Uber's biggest competition in the United States, expects to reach $1 billion in gross annual revenue, the company's co-founder told Reuters. Hitting a $1 billion run rate over the next year would suggest privately owned Lyft has increased its market share in some critical U.S. cities. REUTERS

'STORMWATER PIONEER'

7 Gina Rucci, co-owner of Popi's Italian Restaurant, was recognized on Tuesday by the city as a "Stormwater Pioneer" for installing two rain gardens on her South Philadelphia property. The gardens help manage storm water and keep contaminants from the Schuylkill River.

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

JINDAL SUSPENDS RUN

4 Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said Tuesday he was suspending his campaign for the Republican nomination for president in 2016, saying it was "not my time." Jindal, speaking on Fox News, declined to endorse another Republican candidate, saying he would support the party's eventual nominee. REUTERS

US DEFENSE STOCKS

5 U.S. defense stocks are expected to rise if the Paris attack gives a bump to rising international sales. Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman are among companies poised to benefit the most, analysts said. The stocks have risen 4 percent to 5.1 percent since Friday's carnage in Paris. "These stocks offer investors a positive exposure to geopolitical risks where the so-called threat environment keeps increasing, and that's only going to benefit the defense contractors," said David Klink, senior equity analyst at Huntington National Bank. REUTERS

PHILLY COP ARRESTED

6 A Philadelphia police officer is under arrest for assaulting two people outside a Dunkin' Donuts, authorities said. Joseph Marion, 39, was charged with simple assault and recklessly endangering another person in the Feb. 14 incident.

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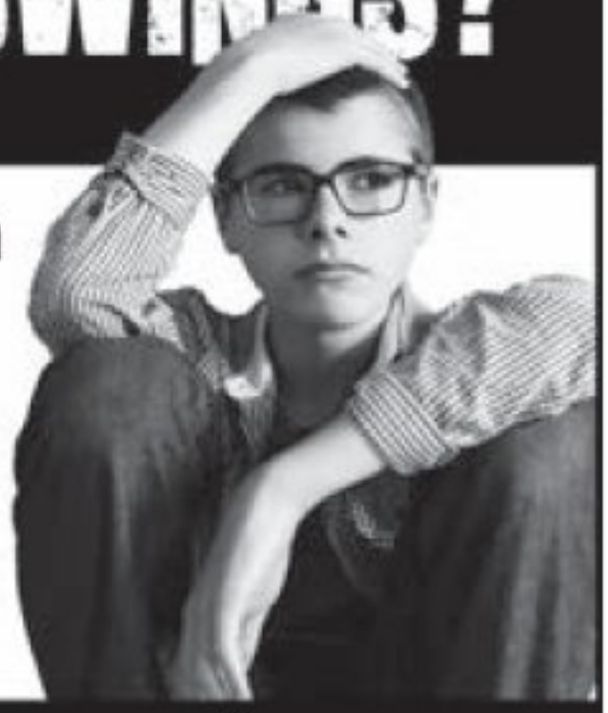

A bipolar disorder research study for children and teens ages 10-17 is enrolling now.

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BRIEF

Grand opening of One Liberty observation deck announced
Beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28, residents of Philly will be able to get a higher view of the city than has ever been offered before.

One Liberty Place's 57th-floor observation deck, boasting new views of the Philly skyline, will be accessible from the Shops at Liberty Place or the entrance at 1650 Market Street.

"One Liberty Observation Deck was designed to create an authentic, visually rich experience that expresses the unique vibe of Philadelphia as a place and culture," said general manager Evan Evans.

Tickets will cost $14 for youth (ages 3 – 11) and $19 for adults. The deck will be open 365 days a year.

METRO

The interior of Liberty One's observation deck, left, and the skyline view, right. PROVIDED

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / POLICY DOCUMENTS AND LEASE

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is requesting public comments and conducting a public hearing on the following policy and lease documents:

Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) – PHA's admissions and continued occupancy policies for conventional and scattered site public housing are described in the ACOP. A copy of the proposed ACOP and a summary of changes from the current version are available for public review as noted below.

Lease Agreement – The Lease Agreement is an agreement entered into between PHA and the Head(s) of Household for each PHA public housing unit. A copy of the proposed Lease Agreement and a summary of changes from the current version are available for public review as noted below.

Community Service Rider – The Community Service Rider is a rider to the Lease Agreement. PHA proposes to modify the Community Service Rider. A copy of the proposed Community Service Rider is available for public review as noted below.

Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan (Administrative Plan) – PHA's policies related to administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program including admissions and continued occupancy policies are described in the Administrative Plan. A copy of the proposed Administrative Plan and a summary of changes from the current version are available for public review as noted below.

Copies of the above-listed documents are available for public review on PHA's website at www.pha.phila.gov under the "Latest News" section or may be picked up at:

Housing Choice Voucher Program Office:
2850 Germantown Ave 1st Floor

Scattered Sites Management Offices:
Abbotsford Homes – 3226 McMichael St.
Westpark Apartments – 4445 Holden St.
Spring Garden Apartments – 715 Brandywine St.
Wilson Park – 2500 Jackson St.
Fairhill Apartments – 2411 N.11th St.

Public Housing Management Offices:
Bartram - 5404 Gibson Drive
Raymond Rosen – 2110 N. 23rd St.

PHA residents, Housing Choice Voucher participants and the general public may provide oral comments on any of the above matters by attending the public hearing described below and/or by submitting written comments during the comment period. A public hearing will be conducted at the following time and location: **Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 11:00 am, 12 South 23rd Street, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

The comment period begins on November 13, 2015 at 12 noon and ends on January 14, 2016 at 12 noon. Comments on any or all of the above matters must be received by the end of the comment period. Please send written comments to: Philadelphia Housing Authority, Policy Research and Enterprise Planning Office Attention: Policy Documents and Lease Comments 12 South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

The public hearing is being held in an accessible location. If you require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 215-684-4000. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.

Mayor Nutter highlights security at marathon

Security measures will be in place at this weekend's marathon.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

Mayor Nutter CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter sought to reassure the public about security at this weekend's Gore-Tex Philadelphia Marathon.

Nutter told reporters Tuesday that there is no known threat to the city or the marathon, and that while there will be heightened security, it will not go beyond what racegoers are used to.

Organizers will set up secure zones at the start and finish lines, which are between 18th and 25th streets along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Those checkpoints were established in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing, which killed three and maimed hundreds of others when two brothers detonated homemade bombs near the race's finish line in 2013.

Nutter warned people to give themselves extra time to get through security checkpoints.

BRIEF

Man arrested in fatal trolley crash smelled like weed
Police have arrested the driver who hit and killed a woman trying to catch a SEPTA trolley on Woodland Avenue on Monday morning, saying his car reeked of pot.

Malachi Armstrong, a 23-year-old homeless man, faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and homicide by vehicle in a 9 a.m. crash that killed Miriam Wilson, 38.

Police said Wilson was crossing Woodland Avenue at 54th Street, trying to catch a Route 11 trolley that had stopped to let out passengers.

Armstrong, police said, ran a red light and tried to pass the trolley on the left side — while passengers got on and off the trolley — when his 2015 Nissan Altima hit Wilson.

There were no other reported injuries. METRO

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Members of the West Philly Tarheels, a team of 9-year-olds in the Pop Warner Mighty Mite Leagues, practice at Papa Playground in West Philly, and below right, are seen at a recent game. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Team's champ dreams dashed

A group of West Philly youngsters drove hard all season, but abruptly lost their shot at the bowl.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Ask the 9-year-old football players on the West Philly Tarheels, almost none weighing more than 100 pounds, what they think makes their team unique, and they sound like pro football players.

"Our passing game."

"We improved our defense. We only gave up 12 points all year."

"We don't talk smack. We just show it on the field."

A pro team they're not. The entire team of 17 barely outweighs the five Eagles on the offensive line (about 300 pounds each).

However, the Tarheels, who wrapped up their season in the Pop Warner League's Mighty Mites division last weekend with a 18-0 win, leaving them undefeated with an 11-0 record, are feeling like they lost.

That's because a midseason organizational change canceled their dream of playing the Pop Warner Super Bowl in Disney.

"Finding out we weren't going down to Disney, it really hurt in the inside of my body. I really wanted to make it down there," said player AJ Redmond, 9.

While the league had a playoffs system with winners heading to the bowl at Disney World in Florida last year, it was changed this year to an invitation-only bowl — and the Tarheels didn't get the invite.

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"The kids thought they were going to Florida. Florida was their incentive," said team mom Caiya Whitehead.

Some parents even said they joined this league only for the chance to play in Disney, which ended up being a mirage.

"Last year, we were in the Keystone League," said Danielle Tucker-Mills, a mother of another player. "We switched to go to Pop Warner League because we knew there was a chance, if the kids won, they could go to Disney."

The decision to change plans occurred in October due to problems involving numerous complaints from various teams, said Pop Warner spokesman Josh Spruce.

"The playoff structure just brought a lot of challenges when playing with kids who are 7, 8 and 9 years old," Pruce said. "We decided not to play anything that looks like a playoff game."

Somehow the decision, made in October, didn't trickle down from the Liberty League Athletic Association to the Tarheel parents until two weeks ago — right after winning a game they believed would set them on the path to the playoffs.

"The day we found out, we couldn't even have practice. They all broke down crying," Whitehead said.

"It was conveyed to our children that if they actually won all their games, they would advance to Disney," said Tucker-Mills. "All of a sudden you change the rules and no, we're not going to Disney."

"I'm sorry if they were misinformed. It's unfortunate circumstances," Pruce said.

Now, the Tarheels are focusing on moving forward.

"This team is special. I've never seen nothing like this team," said Kareem Baylor Sr., one of the team coaches, whose son is on the team, during a recent practice. "Seventeen 9-year-olds changed my life."

Parents and coaches said the Tarheels' football skill is only continuing to grow.

"It's really instilled in them that 'this is what I want to do,'" Tucker-Mills said. "Even when they're not at practice, they practice. They will move on. They're resilient. They will bounce back."

Shadeen Francis
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Would you adopt these cute kittens now?

Orphaned felines dress to impress.

The Big Apple is tough for a little kitty, as hundreds of tiny felines are abandoned in New York's urban jungle. With this in mind, photographer Shaina Fishman teamed up with stylist Ryen Blaschke to create "Cats in Hats" — snaps of orphaned kittens wearing funny headgear — to shed light on the moggy's plight.

"Cats in Hats" is amusing, but at heart has a serious side to it.
Indeed. The project brings attention to New York's rescue groups. A great photograph not only raises the chance of a cat getting adopted, but it also drives volunteers and donations. A striking shot can also create interest in the important work shelters are doing across the city.

Fishman

Do you have any particular feel-good story about animal adoption?
Most recently, I have been working with the Southampton Animal Shelter [on Long Island] to photograph their cats and dogs. I focused that project on getting great images of the animals that had been living at the shelter for a long time. They were wonderful dogs but kept getting overlooked for various reasons. One dog has been there for almost two years. Just recently I got the news that she had been adopted. I don't know if my image of her had anything to do with it — maybe it didn't, but maybe it did.

Back to the cats. Tell us about the process behind the shoots.
First, I had to decide which hats would be made. Ryen Blaschke and I came up with lists of headwear that were iconic and relevant. Ryen then hand-made all of the hats out of felt (except for the wigs). The shoots took place in the homes of volunteers that were fostering the kittens. I choose the kittens based on what character I thought they fit.

How was your experience in working with these little felines?
I absolutely love working with kittens. These kittens were all calm and seemingly enjoyed the attention and affection they received during the shoot.

DANIEL CASILLAS/MWN

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Soccer game in Germany canceled over bomb fears

Apart from the stadium, police also evacuated Hanover's TUI multipurpose arena, where a concert was about to start.

German police stand outside the HDI-Arena in Hanover on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

A soccer game between hosts Germany and the Netherlands that German Chancellor Angel Merkel was due to attend in Hanover was called off two hours before its scheduled start Tuesday over fears of a planned bombing.

"We had received specific indications that an attack with explosives was planned," Hanover Police President Volker Kluwe told state broadcaster NDR.

"We took them seriously, and that is why we took the measures," he said.

Police vans with loudspeakers ordered fans to leave the stadium as heavily armed officers positioned themselves outside the arena.

"The [spectators], who were already in the stadium at that time, were asked to leave the stadium without panicking," police said in a brief statement.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere was to hold a news conference later Tuesday to provide more information.

After the attacks in Paris on Friday, some of which targeted the stadium where Germany was playing France in the French capital, security measures in Hanover had been tight.

Merkel was set to attend with Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel and several government ministers in a show of solidarity with France.

"The [spectators], who were already in the stadium at that time, were asked to leave the stadium without panicking." Police

"We were rerouted on our way to the stadium and are now in a safe area," German team spokesman Jens Grittner said on Twitter. "We cannot say more at this moment."

Two Dutch government ministers attending the match — Defense Minister Jeanine Hennes and Health and Sport Minister Edith Schippers — were returning home.

World champions Germany had not initially wanted the game to go ahead after having played in Paris on Friday as a wave of attacks hit the city, killing 129 people.

The contingent of 80 Germans, including players, coaches and staff, then spent the night holed up in the changing rooms of the Stade de France stadium, before heading for the airport Saturday morning.

But the players, coaches as well as the national football association then decided to go ahead with the Hanover game in a gesture of solidarity with France. REUTERS

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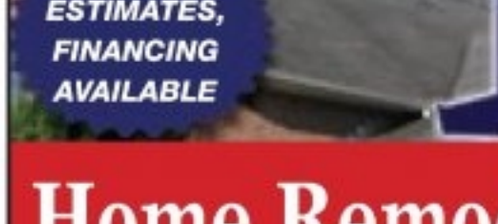

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French army Rafale fighter jets sit on the tarmac at a military base at an undisclosed location in the Gulf. GETTY IMAGES

France and Russia strike Islamic State

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for a coordinated assault in Paris on Friday and the downing of the Russian jet over Sinai on Oct. 31.

France and Russia bombed Islamic State targets in Syria on Tuesday, punishing the group for attacks in Paris and against a Russian airliner that together killed 353 people, and made the first tentative steps toward a possible military alliance.

Syrian targets hit by Russian long-range bombers and cruise missiles Tuesday included the Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa, while French warplanes also targeted Raqqa on Tuesday evening — the third such bombing raid within 48 hours.

Paris and Moscow are not coordinating their operations, but French President Francois Hollande has called for a global campaign against the radicals in the wake of the Paris attacks.

The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to Hollande by phone and had ordered the Russian navy to establish contact with a French naval force heading to the eastern Mediterranean, led by an aircraft carrier, and to treat them as allies.

"We need to work out a plan with them of joint sea and air actions," Putin told military chiefs.

REUTERS

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FRED BEANS REPEATS HISTORIC USED CAR SALE

Doylestown, PA – Fred Beans, CEO and founder of the Fred Beans Automotive Group located in Doylestown, PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, November 21st at 9:00AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **$999**.* This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand.

Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **all 8 Fred Beans Doylestown locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory**.

Along with this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Doylestown features new Ford, Lincoln, Mitsubishi, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, and GMC vehicles.

Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

Along with the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices for this sale from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **$999**,* prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, ***"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interest."***

Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that's right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of November 20th, after the close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle. Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

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This special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale will be held at all 8 Fred Beans Doylestown locations this Saturday, November 21st at 9:00AM.

Pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as $999.* Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM for the start of inspection. Incredible sale prices, starting as low as **$999**,* will be posted no later than 8:00AM. All vehicles will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships is expecting a high volume of customers for this sale, so be sure to reserve your spot early.

Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.*

Most of these surplus pre-owned vehicles will get sent directly to auto auctions for liquidation. So if anyone has been thinking about purchasing a good, clean, dependable pre-owned car, truck, van, or sport utility vehicle, don't miss this special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale.

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For more information about this sale and directions to our locations, please visit us online at **www.999sale.com or call 855-656-0699**

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Egypt detains two airport staff over Russian air crash

Two employees of Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh airport have been detained for questioning over the crash of a Russian airliner that killed all 224 people aboard, two security officials and an airport employee said Tuesday.

"Seventeen people are being held; two of them are suspected of helping whoever planted the bomb on the plane at Sharm el-Sheikh airport," said one of the security officials, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

The second security official said CCTV footage showed a baggage handler carrying a suitcase from an airport building to another man, who was loading luggage onto the doomed airliner from below the plane on the runway.

Crash site GETTY IMAGES

An airport media department employee, who also preferred to remain anonymous, confirmed two members of the ground crew had been detained for questioning.

Egyptian Interior Minister Magdi Abdel Ghaffar said there were no arrests. "This news is incorrect. It was probably reported because of the strict inspection checks that all airport workers are undergoing," he said.

Russia's FSB security service said Tuesday it was certain a bomb had brought down the Airbus jet Oct. 31, joining Britain and the United States in reaching that conclusion.

Egypt has not yet formally confirmed that a bomb was the cause, saying it wants to await the completion of all investigations.

It was not immediately clear what role the employees said by security sources to have been detained had at Sharm el-Sheikh airport. REUTERS

7 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Philadelphia - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

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Unarmed man shot by Minneapolis police dies

A 24-year-old black man said to be unarmed who was shot by Minneapolis police Sunday has died, a local television station reported Tuesday, citing his brother.

Community activists have identified the deceased as Jamar Clark, who they said was unarmed, handcuffed and shot in the head. Officials have declined to identify the person or confirm he died, but police said he was not handcuffed when he was shot.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office said a man tentatively identified as Jamar Clark died Monday at 9:25 p.m. Shawn Wilson, operations manager at the medical examiner's office, declined to confirm Clark's age or race.

Wilson said the medical examiner's office was treating the case as a homicide investigation. Hennepin County officials said they would release information on the case later Tuesday.

Jamar Clark was shot by police in Minneapolis. TWITTER

Clark was taken off life support Monday night, a reporter with KARE television said on Twitter.

Clark's death has sparked protests and dozens of arrests.

Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges said Monday she had requested a federal civil rights investigation into the shooting, which has set off protests.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension was continuing its own investigation and will hand over the results to prosecutors.

Activists blocked the entrance of a police precinct following the shooting and briefly flooded an interstate highway late Monday, demanding authorities release video of the incident.

Minneapolis Police Chief Janeé Harteau, who spoke at a news conference with Mayor Hodges on Monday, said police were not yet releasing the names of two police officers involved in the incident.

Police said about 12:45 a.m. on Sunday they responded to a report of an assault and shot a suspect during a struggle after the person interfered with paramedics on the scene.

The suspect was not in handcuffs during the struggle with police and was taken by ambulance to Hennepin County Medical Center, police said. REUTERS

BRIEFS

Suspect video sparks passengers' removal at Baltimore airport

Four passengers were taken off a Spirit Airlines flight at Baltimore on Tuesday after one who "appeared to be Muslim" viewed what another passenger thought was an Islamic State video, a government source said.

Checks of the three men and a woman and their baggage found nothing suspicious, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They were released without charges, the source said.

Spirit said the incident took place when Flight 969 from Baltimore-Washington Airport to Chicago O'Hare Airport was taxiing to the runway.

"A passenger alerted a flight attendant of a passenger engaged in suspicious activity on board," it said. The plane returned to the gate, and police removed the four.

The government source said a female passenger who "appeared to be Muslim" was watching a video on her phone that another passenger thought was from the Islamic State.

The militant group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris on Friday that killed 129 people.

WJLA television in Washington reported the four passengers appeared to be in their early 30s and of Middle Eastern ancestry. They were carrying several backpacks. REUTERS

DoJ to take action against dietary supplement makers

Federal agencies including the Department of Justice announced Tuesday criminal and civil actions related to unlawful advertising and sale of dietary supplements.

Shares of dietary supplement makers GNC Holdings Inc. were down 24 percent in afternoon trading, while those of Vitamin Shoppe fell nearly 8 percent and Herbalife Ltd. 2.5 percent.

Herbalife spokesman Alan Hoffman said in an email the investigation had nothing to do with the company.

Representatives of GNC and Vitamin Shoppe were not immediately available for comment. The companies were not named in the announcement and all recovered to close down slightly. REUTERS

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3 Ways to save big during the holidays

Instead of dipping into your savings to buy presents for everyone in your list, try these tips instead.

Financial experts advise to spend 1 percent of your pretax income on holiday shopping. ISTOCK

Ah, the holidays. A time to get together, celebrate with family and make questionable life choices. Whether it is drinking way too much egg nog or bringing up old resentments at the dinner table, something about the holidays switches off the usual filters in our brains.

But new survey data reveals the dumbest choice of all: Many of us are drawing down emergency funds, or even raiding retirement accounts, to pay holiday bills.

Some 62 percent of parents admit to spending more than they should over the holidays, according to the 2015 Parents, Kids & Money Survey by Baltimore-based money managers T. Rowe Price. To compound the hurt, 9 percent of parents are tapping emergency family cash to do so, and 7 percent are dipping into 401(k)s or IRAs.

Dads are the biggest culprit, with 11 percent admitting they dipped into emergency savings and retirement accounts to make it through the holidays. In comparison, 6 percent of moms tapped emergency funds, and barely 3 percent made withdrawals from retirement funds.

"People feel like if they don't spend, spend, spend, it means they aren't doing anything," says Stuart Ritter, a senior financial planner with T. Rowe Price. "That 'all-or-nothing' mind-set is used to rationalize buying more than they really should. As a result, a huge percentage of people say they end up overspending."

While every family's financial situation is unique, there are some tips everyone can use to keep out of spending trouble.

Set strict parameters

The typical American household spends around 1 percent of pretax income on holiday shopping, according to Hersh Shefrin, a professor and behavioral economist at Santa Clara University. Low-income families are slightly more than that, at 1.5 percent, and high-income families slightly less, at 0.5 percent.

Stick to those guidelines to make sure your purchases are not spinning out of control. Shefrin suggests starting early to avoid overspending and the stress of last-minute shopping.

"Then throw in something small and meaningful for yourself which you earn at the end of the holiday season, but only if you stick to your budget," he said.

Stay disciplined

Spending with discipline means fewer family arguments. Half of those who overspent reported having money squabbles, according to the Parents, Kids & Money Survey. Among those who did not overspend, only 27 percent argued.

Remember the most thoughtful presents usually do not come with a big price tag: Make a photo album, for instance, or put together a genealogy tree.

Another idea: Offer family members a book of certificates they can cash in to do favorite activities together. After all, kids value your time most of all, even if they are too cool to say so.

Add accountability

Form a united front with your partner to keep you both from overspending. After all, the less your spend on holiday gifts, the more you will have to fund other key goals like college savings, family vacations and retirement accounts.

"Don't think of cutting back as getting less of the things you want; think of it as getting more of the things you want," says Ritter.

You can also use peer pressure to your advantage. Make it public, so you cannot backtrack on your savings goals.

"Tell someone whose respect you crave what you plan to do, and ask them to check in with you at the end to see if you lived within your budget," advises Shefrin. "There's no pressure like peer pressure from people whose respect you crave."

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Charlie Sheen confirms he's HIV positive

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Troubled actor Charlie Sheen revealed Tuesday morning on the "Today" show that he is HIV positive and that he was diagnosed four years ago. "It's a hard three letters to absorb. It's a turning point in one's life," Sheen told Matt Lauer. "I have to put a stop to this onslaught, this barrage of attacks and of subtruths and very harmful and mercurial stories that are about me, that threaten the health of so many others that couldn't be further from the truth," the actor said, presumably referencing a National Enquirer expose on him due this week.

Sheen told Lauer that he had revealed his status to those whom he thought he could trust but instead faced attempted extortion to keep it secret. "What people forget is that it's money taken from my children," he said. "I trusted them and they were deep in my inner circle, and I thought they could be helpful. My trust turned to their treason."

MATT LEE

Gwyneth Paltrow's latest spat with Chris Martin

Just because you've consciously uncouple from someone doesn't mean you're done having arguments with them — especially when there are children involved. At least, that's the lesson Gwyneth Paltrow is learning in her latest co-parenting battle with ex-husband Chris Martin, who is totally OK with 9-year-old son Moses getting a kid-size motorcycle, according to Radar Online. Paltrow, though, is having none of it. Moses "can beg and plead all he wants, but Gwyneth will never buy him a motorized bike. She thinks they're dangerous and has always had an issue with them, even though she's ridden scooters herself over the years and even taken the kids for rides on them," a source says. "It's a point of conflict for Chris, who likes to spoil Moses and indulge his fantasies. Still, this is a battle she won't back down from, and she refuses to let him ride a motorcycle or minibike — at least until he's old enough to buy it himself." Come on, Gwyneth. Chris is clearly just trying to make up for naming the kid Moses. Let him have this one!

the word

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Porsche not having the Paul Walker wrongful death lawsuit

This is hardly surprising, but the lawyers for Porsche take issue with a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the late Paul Walker's daughter, alleging his death could've been prevented if his car had been equipped with certain safety features. In court documents, Porsche alleges that Walker "knowingly and voluntarily assumed all risk, perils and danger in respect to the use of the subject 2005 Carrera GT," according to E! News. The company adds the "risk and dangers were open and obvious and known to him and … he chose to conduct himself in a manner so as to expose himself to such perils, thus assuming all the risks involved in using the vehicle."

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Simon Pegg defends the rom-com

The geek god says he's not as much of a geek as you'd imagine.

MATT PRIGGE
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Simon Pegg and Lake Bell play singles who embark on an accidental date in "Man Up," hitting VOD on Friday. SABAN FILMS

Simon Pegg is synonymous with geek culture. But his interests, as he tells us, are diverse. In "Man Up," he does his first straight-up rom-com, playing a divorced guy who goes out in London with a woman (Lake Bell) who, because of some misunderstandings, is actually only pretending to be his date. Pegg talks to us about not hating romantic comedies, his difficulties writing female characters and his interests other than "Star Wars."

Rom-coms today rarely exist now unless they're anti-rom-coms.

I hear this term "anti-romantic comedy," and I say, "Well, if you're going to make a romantic comedy, make a romantic comedy." A lot of people of late, in British romantic comedies as well, try to reinvent the rom-com by making fun of it or denigrating it to be subversive. Then it doesn't really work, because it stops being a rom-com, and it starts being just slightly snarky. Ultimately, what it becomes is the very thing it's supposedly trying to dismantle.

GETTY IMAGES

What caused the rom-com backlash?

Maybe the rom-com became tiresome because it was about people we don't give a s— about falling in love because they were so beautiful. Lake is attractive, but she's not conventionally beautiful. It makes her more relatable. And me, I'm not Matthew McConaughey by any means. Maybe my chest and stomach, but no one ever sees that. One thing I've heard the most whilst promoting this film is, "Why is he the lead in this film? Why is this ginger pig in a romantic comedy?" It's like, "Well, I'm a person. [Laughs] These things happen to people. They don't just happen to f—ing models."

For awhile, Nancy might be creepier than rom-coms tend to allow.

Men wouldn't write a woman like that. That's why I liked Tess [Morris'] script. She wasn't afraid to make her creepy or just a bit desperate. If a man did write her, he'd probably be accused of misogyny. I've certainly always had a problem writing women. Edgar [Wright] and I will admit our weakness is writing good female characters. That's why our films are generally about blokes.

More than a nerd

Almost every interview you've done has discussed your connection to geek culture, to "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" and "Doctor Who." But you seem to have non-nerd interests, too.

I've cultivated that aspect of my public persona as much as anything. I often think of myself being looked on as a comedian or a geek. I don't feel I'm either of those things. I have certain geeky interests, and I'm very much a fan of those kinds of films. I wouldn't be working in them if I wasn't. But I do have a love of other things and aspirations beyond the everyday-guy-in-extraordinary-situation films.

You wrote a piece earlier this year about the infantilization of culture. How severe was the blowback?

A few things I said got hoisted up in the air as click-bait without any context. The column [I wrote in response] was trying to contextualize what I'd said. But it was huge. I'm not even on Twitter anymore, and I felt the waves of hate from people calling me a betrayer and that I'm biting the hand that feeds me. It's like, "Oh, f— off." [Laughs]

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Anthony Mackie

The actor talks about playing a homeless man in "Shelter" and getting slammed for a misquote.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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In "Shelter," now on VOD, Anthony Mackie plays Tahir, an African emigre who's homeless in New York City. SCREEN MEDIA FILMS

Anthony Mackie is in very different films this season. He has two holiday movies: the nice "Love the Coopers" and the raunchy "The Night Before" with Seth Rogen. He was just seen in the political satire "Our Brand Is Crisis." And he's in "Shelter," a small, intimate drama in which he plays Tahir, a Nigerian emigre who's homeless. Tahir joins up with Hannah (Jennifer Connelly), a junkie also trying to escape past trauma.

You used to be a part-time New Yorker. Are you now full time in New Orleans?

I'm 100 percent in New Orleans. If I'm not working, I'm in New Orleans. I just sold my restaurants [including NoBar in Crown Heights, Brooklyn] and just completely checked out of New York. I realized I worked a lot. When I have two or three days off, what do I want to do? Come to New York and check on the restaurant? Or go to New Orleans and go to my son's soccer game? I want to go to New Orleans and teach my son fishing. I want to take him to the track and race go-carts. I don't want to come here and have people complaining about having to wash mats.

How did you ingratiate yourself into this world?

There was a homeless shelter at the end of my block in Brooklyn. I would put on my baseball cap and put on my hoodie, and I would just sit on the corner. I didn't talk to anybody. I would just

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takes on poverty

sit there and watch guys walk back and forth, just listening to them — how they would talk to each other, how they were addressing each other, the stories they were telling. And lo and behold, after about a week, one guy talks to me, another guy talks to me. Then I get invited to a card game. And then all of a sudden, people are asking me, "How come I never see you at the shelter?" The drug dealers thought I was an undercover cop, so they started shooing me off the corner.

GETTY IMAGES

There are constant reports about the ever-widening income gap in New York City, but it just gets worse and worse.

Worse and worse. I met this family in Brooklyn. This guy said his apartment caught on fire. He didn't have renter's insurance because he couldn't afford it. So he lost everything. He missed a week of work because he didn't have clothes or anything. He didn't have money, so he went to Goodwill, scraped up what clothes he could. Then he lost his job, because of the mental stress of that. He said he hadn't been able to get back on his feet. This is a college-educated man. All of us have a breaking point. You never know what that moment is going to be that sends you on a downward spiral.

That pro-Trump misquote

A couple weeks ago, you were at the center of a social media storm because, in an interview, you said something that was interpreted as being pro-Donald Trump. You had to go on Twitter and say it was a joke after it blew up.

It was weird because, one, I didn't endorse Trump. She asked me a question about my character in the movie. So it was weird, but it was eye-opening, because up to that point, I thought we lived in America. Some of my best friends are Republicans — I mean crazy, hardcore Republicans. And they're my best friends. If you want to endorse Trump or Clinton or Rubio, good for you. That's your choice. I live in a very gray world, and a lot of people live in a black or white world. That's scary to me, and that's why I think we're so divided now.

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Dancing down Ninth Street

Kun-Yang Lin/ Dancers explores what it means to become an American.

SHAUN BRADY
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Much of Kun-Yang Lin's work has focused on the restlessness of the immigrant experience. Last year, the Taiwanese-born choreographer premiered "Be/Longing: Light/Shadow," with inspiration roaming from Mexico to Venice, Indonesia to the Jersey Shore.

But Lin has lived in the United States for 14 years and in South Philadelphia since 2008. His new piece, "Home/S. 9th St.," explores the idea of settling down and the notion of finding a home in a place where immigrants from different cultures have been doing so for generations.

"When immigrants move to a new country, they give up whatever they have," Lin says. "They have to rebuild themselves and start a new home. That sense of questioning becomes an important element to tap into what it means to be a human being. This piece is about that sense of a microcosm, where we can learn so much about ourselves and what it means to be American for all those immigrants."

Lin was attracted to the diversity of the South Ninth Street corridor when he was searching for headquarters for his Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers company in 2008. Alongside the Italian Market Lin found pockets of Asian, Latino, Irish and Jewish immigrants co-existing, sometimes uneasily. "My own experience was the sense of diversity, the colors, the smells," he recalls. "I've seen it changing just from when I first moved there, at one point broken down and then revitalized. It's like life in how it goes up and down. You could say that about every place, but it's such a vivid experience on Ninth Street because you get the sense of embracing old and new and in between."

To create "Home/S. 9th St.," Lin and his dancers — many of them foreign-born — conducted story circles with their neighbors, and drew on what they learned for the creation of the dance.

Not everyone was comfortable sharing in that way; Lin recalls pursuing some of his neighbors to places they felt more at home. "People may feel more comfortable talking in the park, a senior center, the Italian Market or one of the two big Asian shopping malls, or one particular breakfast place where they go every day," he says. "I had to spend maybe five breakfasts with one single older Italian in order for them to feel comfortable to share their experiences with me."

If you go

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers: "Home/S. 9th St."
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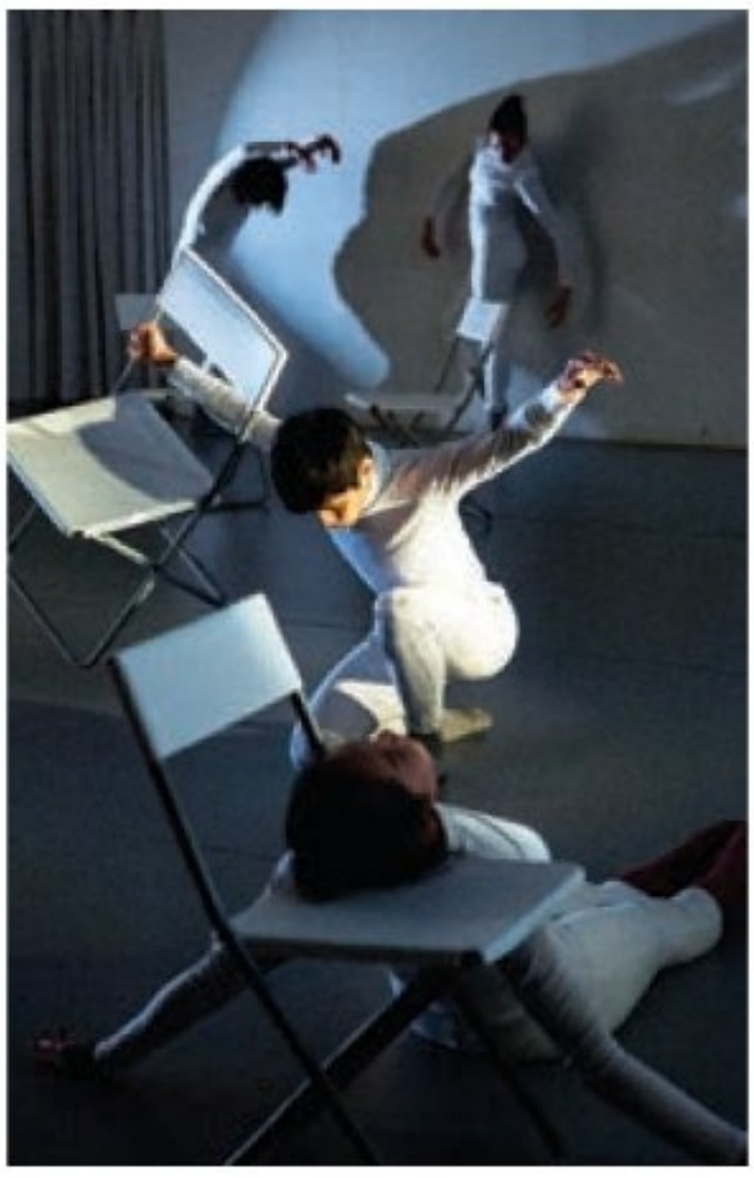
ALL PHOTOS FRANK BICKING

In the news

With the thundering of endless presidential debates on TV, the issue of immigration is particularly timely. Lin insists he didn't set out to make a statement, but admits that one inevitably arises.

"I'm an artist, not a politician. But this piece is about right now while embracing our memories and perspectives," he says. "It's not primarily focused on a political point of view, but that becomes part of the piece because that's what we're dealing with as a society."



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New on Netflix

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"The Devil's Advocate"

Al Pacino screams a lot in 1997's "The Devil's Advocate." PROVIDED

News is that Al Pacino can no longer remember his lines when on stage, forcing the legend to peek at dialogue displayed from the wings. At least on film he doesn't have to remember entire texts at a time. The shoutiest, most over-the-top parts of 1997's "The Devil's Advocate" have Pacino using all his energy in bursts, shouting and screaming and quipping as the head of a powerful law firm who's also the devil, probably. He's the opposite of a sleepy Keanu Reeves, a good ol' country lawyer bewitched into his firm. Perhaps more magnetic than Pacino is Charlize Theron, as Reeves' wife, who delivers an achingly sincere portrait of a woman slowly unraveling. It's a ridiculous movie writ large, but when she's onscreen she brings it down to earth. MP

"A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence" MAGNOLIA PICTURES

"A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence"

Swedish filmmaker Roy Andersson creates movies made entirely of comedic one-take wonders that out-Wes Anderson Wes Anderson in their complexity and OCD timing. As in "Songs From the Second Floor" and "You the Living," his latest has no real plot — just a series of sketches that sometimes relate or feature the same funny-sad sack characters. From a bit where ship passengers wonder what to do with the meal purchased by a guy who's just croaked to the misadventures of two depressed novelty gag salesmen to a bar that's overridden by an army from the past, it's worth not just a spin but several of them, just to marvel at their density. MP

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Christmas Village sneak peek

Preview the pop-up German market this weekend.

RACHEL VIGODA
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Christmas Village is in Love Park, at 15th and JFK. RUSS BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping — and pretend it actually feels like winter — at a sneak peek of Christmas Village this weekend. The annual outdoor German market in Love Park will be back Thanksgiving Day for a postparade place to shop and feel festive before holding its official opening Nov. 28 with a choir-led holiday sing-a-long and a visit from the toy-bearing Christkind. But stop by this Saturday or Sunday to be among the first of the 700,000 visitors the organizers expect to stop by this year.

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Thor picks his hammer up again

The heavy metal rocker/bodybuilder stars in a new documentary about his up-and-down life.

CHRIS JORDAN
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He could blow up hot water bottles, crush bricks and bend steel, but there was one thing muscled-up rocker Jon Mikl Thor could not do in 40 years: attain music stardom.

Until, perhaps, now? His story is told in the documentary "I Am Thor," and it'll be shown — and Thor will rock the house — Friday at PhilaMOCA.

"People viewed us like a freak show and assumed the music wasn't going to match the show," Thor says. "There is strength in the music."

In the '70s and '80s, Thor, a Canadian bodybuilder, combined a metal sound with outrageous strength-centered stage theatrics. He was a contemporary of Kiss, Alice Cooper and the Ramones, appeared on "The Merv Griffin Show" and was front-page news in the U.K.

But a series of missteps and management musical chairs — his career was overseen by Mike Appel, Bruce Springsteen's manager at one point — caused his hammer to deliver a dud instead of a lighting bolt.

"He wanted to do big theatrical shows, and

If you go

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Jon Mikl Thor in his heyday. PROVIDED

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Thor, then and now. PROVIDED

he did them, but he was ahead of his time," said "I Am Thor" director Ryan Wise. "He was doing this in the early '70s, muscle rock, and the movie goes through all that."

It covers the highs and lows, from appearing in a naked waiter revue in Hawaii, to sold-out shows at the Marquee in London, to playing for six paying customers during a comeback tour. He was even a B-movie star, with roles in the campy "Rock N' Roll Nightmare" and "Zombie Nightmare."

Finally there is redemption: European metalheads are now crazy about him, thanks to videos of the young Thor on the Web.

The Thor of today looks a little different than the young Thor. But, hey — he's a survivor.

"We wrote really good songs and we played with some stellar musicians," Thor says. "I'm happy in this day and age the music is being taken more seriously and appreciated. It's like fine wine."

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Your mashed potatoes are legendary. Your stuffing masterful. Your pumpkin pie? Let's just say there's a reason relatives travel down from Maine, and it isn't your lumpy guest bed.

Now, do you want this days-in-the-making feast to be served on just any table? Of course not. Step away from the plastic tablecloth and don't even think about inviting those novelty turkey napkins. We hit up the experts for tablescape tips that'll stand up to your top-secret cranberry sauce recipe.

Don't overthink it

If you're not exactly a Pinterest pro, don't worry — with a little planning, a modern, sophisticated tablescape can come together in minutes. "I love tables that look like they were very easily put together, that have an effortless feel," says Grace Mitchell, the lifestyle blogger behind AStoriedStyle.com. "A cluster of small vases in the center of the table filled with monochromatic flowers makes for an easy-breezy look. Throw in a few candles or tea lights for a glow, and you have yourself a table ready for entertaining."

Spin the color wheel

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Follow @house214design on Instagram for more holiday inspiration, design tips and McCoy's upcoming "Real Goods" series featuring noteworthy makers. MELINDA MCCOY, HOUSE214DESIGN.COM

The rules

Color palettes may be a matter of preference, but when it comes to place settings, there are rules, and the rules are there for a reason. "Maybe it's the Southerner in me, but you do not just set a table willy-nilly!" says Mitchell. "The forks go on the left, the knife and spoon on the right — the knife blade faces the plate. These are easily found via a quick Google search, and they're important to know when designing a table. A table can be set beautifully, but it just looks wrong if the place setting is not done correctly."

"My table this year is going to be lavender and emerald green with accents of gold, and while those colors may not be typical for a Thanksgiving table, they work together beautifully," says Grace Mitchell of AStoriedStyle.com. GRACE MITCHELL, ASTORIEDSTYLE.COM

mother always pulled out the orange tablecloth and red napkins doesn't mean you have to. "I like to decorate in a color palette that is an extension of the rest of my home," says Melinda McCoy, who shares her gorgeous home over at House214Design.com. "It feels seamless and less jarring. The typical fall colors are quietly added to the table. Shades of brown and orange can be found in the candles, vessels that hold all the extras and flowers or greenery. These ideas are all a tip of the hat to the holiday and don't feel forced."

Get fresh

"Creating a table with a fresh aesthetic can be as easy as a trip to your backyard," says Mitchell. "Place a few sprigs of rosemary on your table or some cuttings from a tree or bush. Then cluster seasonal vegetables or fruits on top, such as varieties of eggplant or persimmons. Simple is often the most lovely, and I adore a table filled with items straight from the outdoors."

Find your center

A fussy centerpiece can weigh down a table, especially when space is at a premium. McCoy had one of our favorite (and most delicious) solutions. "I wanted to make an inviting, warm and functional centerpiece, so I decided to line my table from one end to the other with all types of breads and rolls," she explains. "I also mixed in small urns from the garden filled with herbs, vintage vessels that hold jams, and a cake stand that displays corn that I covered in gold glitter."

Work with what you've got

Before you go shopping, take a look through your cabinets — family heirlooms add a special touch to the holiday table. "Just like a room, a table needs a little old mixed in with the new," says Mitchell. "Dust off grandma's platter or bring out your aunt's dessert plates to layer in with your modern ones."

After all, a big-box store can never compare to your own treasures and trinkets. "Of course, it's fine to buy from the stores we all know, but mix those items with those that tell your story," says McCoy. "Remember, it isn't the products themselves that make a beautiful tablescape, it's the story behind them. Honor your story."

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76ers can't stop turnovers

The players are showing their age — which averages the youngest in the NBA — as they continue to struggle.

ANDY JASNER
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Somewhere, John Chaney is cringing.

The legendary Temple coach was a Hall of Famer for myriad reasons. His teams always played defense and limited their turnovers. Watching Chaney after a Temple player committed a turnover was painful. He simply despised giving the ball away to the other team, and he demanded excellence in that regard.

Can you imagine how Chaney must have felt seeing the 76ers commit a whopping 27 turnovers in a 92-86 loss to the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night at the Wells Fargo Center?

The Sixers have not won a game since last March. GETTY IMAGES

The Sixers were sloppy from beginning to end, and it resulted in their 11th straight loss to open the 2015-16 season. The losing skid has reached 21 overall, considering the Sixers dropped their final 10 games last season.

Philadelphia's last win came at Denver on March 25. The last home win was five days earlier on March 20. The Indiana Pacers visit Philadelphia Wednesday. It's the last home game this month for the Sixers.

"We're not going to be Temple back when coach Chaney coached," Sixers coach Brett Brown said. "I wish we were. We're going to live with it a little. I am thrilled with our defense. I think that there is a toughness that we're showing. There's an attitude where we get down and we're just not going away. We did it ugly [Monday]. And we still found a way to get back in it."

The Mavericks didn't play at their usual high level for the entire game. Dirk Nowitzki, a 13-time All-Star, scored 21 points but shot 6-for-16. Point guard Deron Williams was 3-for-10 for 12 points. Chandler Parsons scored 20 points but sat out most of the second half.

> *"I don't expect us to have six turnovers with this group."*
>
> Brett Brown

As poorly as the Sixers performed, a win was within their grasp. Wins are just so hard to come by these days.

"Our defense was good enough," Brown said. "Our rebounding was good enough [46-39 in favor of Philadelphia]. And we had the most bizarre first half I think I've coached since I've been here. Incredible that it was that margin, five points. I thought it was one of the ugliest games I've seen in my life. But there we were. We were down 19 and we found a way to get back in it."

Then it slipped away. Again. For the 21st straight time.

It's almost Thanksgiving, and the Sixers are the last team in the league without a victory.

"The end result is the end result, and I'll say it's impossible to overcome that given where we're at," Brown said. "You can't have 27 turnovers."

T.J. McConnell scored a career-best 13 points and added seven rebounds and six assists for the undermanned Sixers. While he continues to prove his mettle in an NBA uniform, the losses keep adding up.

"We were right there knocking on the door," McConnell said. "We just couldn't finish it."

So the skid continues.

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Patriots (9-0)

If even the Giants can't beat the Patriots, the NFL is in trouble, especially because New York getting a shot at a rematch in the Super Bowl seems... unlikely. Give Stephen Gostkowski credit for his 54-yard game-winning kick as so many kickers struggle.

No. 2

Panthers (9-0)

Leave it to the Panthers to be rebels. Didn't they get the memo that the NFL's best teams were supposed to lose to poor teams this weekend? Losing is the one thing they can't seem to do. Only one team left on their schedule has a winning record, though they do appear twice: the Falcons.

No. 3

Cardinals (7-2)

A St. Louis loss put the Cardinals a clean three games clear atop their division. Weathering Seattle's comeback attempt and retaking the lead was impressive. While a lot of the other contenders have glaring "ifs" and "buts" Arizona looks remarkably well balanced.

No. 4

Bengals (8-1)

Maybe it's not a playoff bug Cincinnati has, and just a Texans bug. Andy Dalton and the offense looked as poor Monday night as they have in two recent postseason losses to Houston. Unfortunately, after this victory, Houston is in first place in their division and again on track for the postseason.

No. 5

Vikings (7-2)

Teddy Bridgewater looked fine a week after St. Louis knocked him out of the game, Adrian Peterson tied an NFL record with his sixth career 200 yard game on the ground, and the Vikings took over sole possession of first place in their division. The Vikings have won five in a row and seven of eight.

No. 6

Steelers (6-4)

It's a weird league when the Pittsburgh Steelers boast the game's best aerial attack but at this point, don't they? Antonio Brown has 27 receptions over the last two games for about a million yards, and he wasn't even the team's leading receiver against Cleveland.

No. 7

Broncos (7-2)

No football fan should have to watch one of their generation's greatest QBs set the NFL passing yardage record in a game he finishes (or doesn't, even more sadly) 5-for-20, for 35 yards, and four interceptions. Sunday was a parody of the reservations we've had about Denver's offense all season.

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No. 8

Packers (6-3)

Forget talk about losing ground to Carolina in the home field race, forget about the lead — after a home loss to Detroit, the Packers need to figure out how to win a game.

No. 9

Chiefs (4-5)

The Chiefs make a surprise return to the top ten after going 1-5 to start the season. Red-zone offense is still a problem KC kicked five field goals while dominating Denver.

No. 10

Bills (5-4)

Rex Ryan is finally getting offense he envisioned trading for LeSean McCoy. After beginning the season banged up, he's gone for 112 rushing yards in each of the last two.

No. 11

Jets (5-4)

Yeah, this loss hurt, but the best thing to come out of it is the rediscovering of the Jets' ground game and Chris Ivory, who finished with 99 rushing yards.

No. 12

Colts (4-5)

The Colts bye let Houston catch up again. The good news for Colts fans is they come out of the bye with just two games left against teams with winning records.

No. 13

Bears (4-5)

Jeremy Langford looks better every week, and the Bears' momentum, which looked like it could have been shot when Matt Forte went down, keeps building.

No. 14

Seahawks (4-5)

Seattle's four wins are against teams with a combined 11 wins this season. Take out a Jimmy Clausen led Bears team from that equation, and it's three teams with seven.

No. 15

Falcons (6-3)

Hopefully the bye week acts like a mini-off-season for the Falcons, who started the season great. They have two big games coming vs. unbeaten Carolina.

No. 16

Raiders (4-5)

The jumbled up AFC means Oakland is still in the thick of the wild card race. David Carr has three picks in the last two games after throwing just three over the first seven.

Best of the rest

- **17 — Giants (5-5):** Yeah, we're bumping them up after a loss. New York fans have to wonder why they can't get this level of play every week.
- **18 — Redskins (4-5):** Kirk Cousins is just the latest beneficiary of the Saints' defense. Cousins' season includes three games with QB ratings above 110 and five below 70.
- **19 — Texans (4-5):** Beating Cincinnati is even more impressive when you consider Brian Hoyer was knocked out of the game with a concussion Monday night.
- **20 — Dolphins (4-5):** Even without Cameron Wake the Fins exploited and pounded a weak Eagles offensive line.
- **21 — Eagles (4-5):** Ryan Mathews (easily Philly's most dangerous offensive player) and Sam Bradford (easily not) each suffered concussions Sunday. Bad news for an inconsistent offense.
- **22 — Rams (4-5):** Just when he gets his first 200-yard game since Week 1, Nick Foles gets benched. It would be nice if Jeff Fisher could make up his mind and stick with it.

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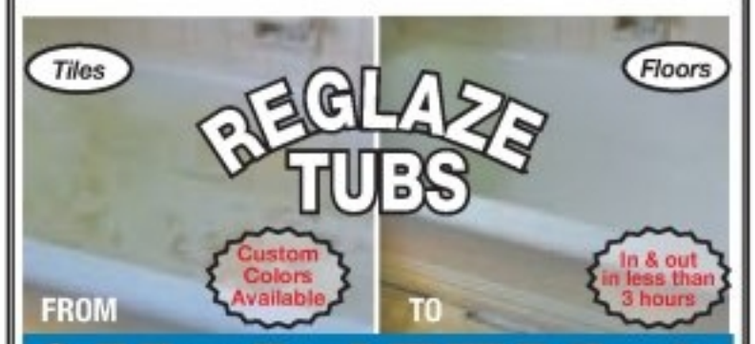

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Cooper: Birds 'reassured' to still be in NFC East hunt

Despite their struggles, the Eagles remain just a half-game out of the lead in the lowly NFC East.

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Cooper has just 11 catches through 10 games a year after nabbing 55. GETTY IMAGES

For as bad as things have been for the Eagles, they could be much worse.

The Cowboys could be healthy, instead of in the midst of a seven-game Tony Romo-less losing streak. Or the Giants could have come through in one or more of their close defeats to take control in the division.

But even after a 20-19 loss to the Dolphins last Sunday, the 4-5 Eagles are a win away from tying for the conference lead.

"It's definitely reassuring knowing that you're still in this," Eagles wide receiver Riley Cooper said, "while not playing nearly as good as you can."

Cooper is one of many bruised and battered Eagles fighting through injuries to compete every week. Another is Sam Bradford, who has overcome two knee surgeries only to be stricken with a concussion against Miami. He will likely be replaced by Mark Sanchez for at least one week.

"No one in here feels great," Cooper said.

"I have no idea whose going to be the quarterback or what the deal with Sam is. I feel confident that Mark is going to run our offense the way it should be run. He loves getting up to the line with 'tempo, tempo, tempo.'"

Cooper is probably also a little excited to get back into the swing of things offensively. After providing some great blocking and catching some bombs earlier this season, the veteran wideout has been quiet offensively. Sanchez and Cooper have chemistry dating back to 2014 when Sanchez started eight games for the Eagles. But potentially putting up good numbers is a secondary concern for Cooper.

"The wins are the most important thing," he said a few days after getting zero targets in Week 10. "Obviously I'd love to have 150 yards receiving and win the game by 21 points. I am perfectly fine with my role, I am going to go out there and going 100 miles per hour every single snap ... I am trying to contribute to win football games. I don't care about the targets and the catches — 'what do you want me to do to help win a football game?' That's my mentality."

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Aries Make plans with someone you love to spend time with and enjoy discovering something new and exciting. Romance will improve your life.

Taurus If you are too sensitive, someone will see you as being weak. Regardless of how you feel, refuse to let anyone see your vulnerabilities.

Gemini Your charm will attract interest, but before you persuade others to contribute to your plans, make sure that what you attempt is realistic.

Cancer Enjoy conversations with family, friends and people you encounter who have a unique or different approach to life, love and happiness.

Leo Keep your life in perspective and refuse to be coerced into a debate with someone who chooses to think or do things differently than you.

Virgo You will have good ideas, but don't force them on others. If someone does show interest, be skeptical regarding his or her motives.

Libra If you share your feelings, you will be granted the freedom to live your life as you please. A skill deserves a chance to be developed.

Scorpio Think before you get involved in someone else's personal affairs. Strive to be understanding and show compassion, but don't meddle.

Sagittarius You can impress others, but make sure that whatever you do or say, you don't embellish or make promises you cannot keep.

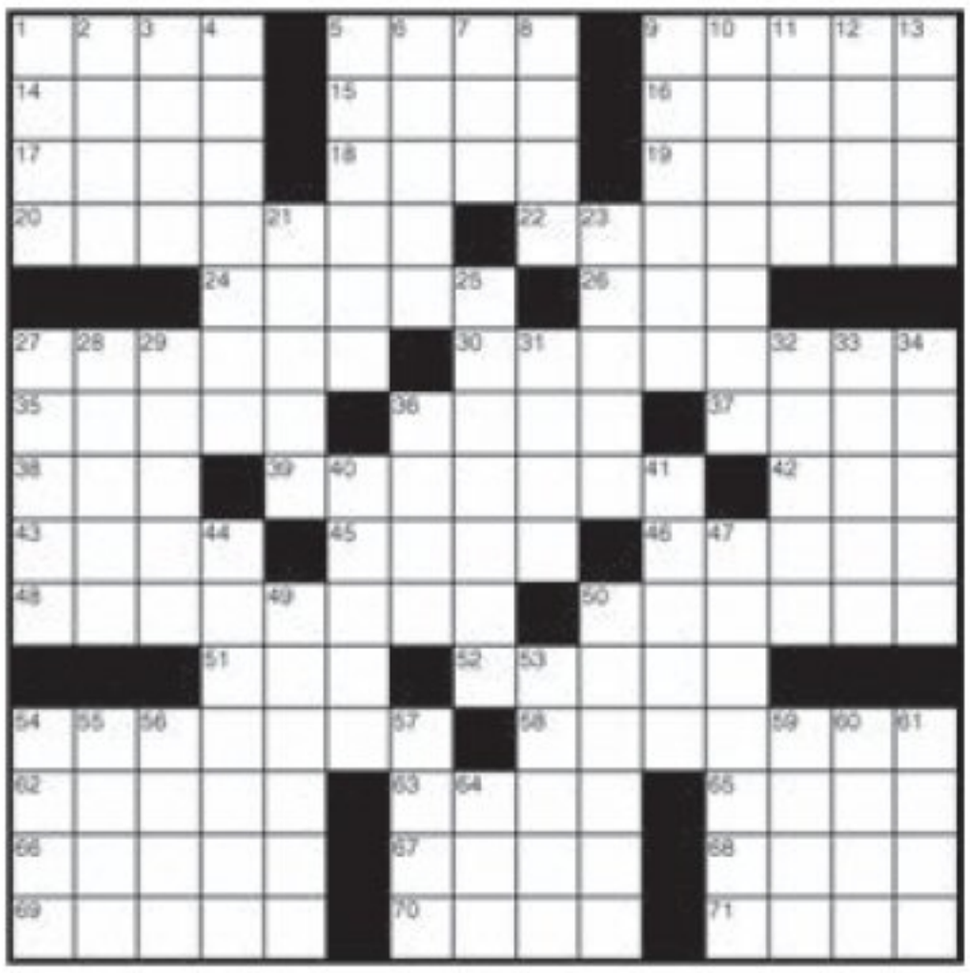
Capricorn If you want something, you should ask for it, but be sure to offer incentives. Your give-and-take attitude will be what leads to your success.

Aquarius Don't say something you'll regret or get into an argument with someone. Before engaging in a losing battle, look inward.

Pisces Don't underestimate a job you've been asked to do, or you will end up looking bad. Keep your plans simple.

EUGENIA LAST

metro.us/crossword



Across

1 Maintain
5 Audit aces
9 Hotel employee
14 Vegas rival
15 Sarah — Jewett
16 Jung's inner self
17 What rainbows are
18 Billion, in combos
19 Slippery fabric
20 Toothless whales
22 Bacon servings
24 Vagabond
26 Ms. Busch of old movies
27 Lyrical
30 Made the most of
35 Fragrant blossom
36 RN employers
37 "— Lisa"
38 Forty Thieves' outwitter
39 Chatty feline
42 – King Cole
43 Radar O'Reilly's soda
45 Club fee
46 Slice
48 19th. century Beau
50 Gold Medals
51 Extinct bird
52 Mote
54 Swift antelope
58 More impudent
62 Player's rep
63 Woe is me!
65 Eye amorously
66 Not those
67 Druid
68 Rock's "cushion"
69 Maneuvered slowly
70 Bad actors
71 Was, to Ovid

Down

1 United — Emirates
2 Actress — Miles
3 SASE, e.g.
4 Hieroglyphics stone
5 French brandy
6 Light-refracting crystal
7 Filmmaker — Lee
8 Dry up
9 Feudal tenant
10 Disneyland site
11 Lower-calorie, in ad-speak
12 Omani title
13 Lies on the beach
21 Ambler and Idle
23 Faulty
25 Beats, as with fists
27 Fallback strategy (2 wds.)
28 Crude carrier
29 Yale of Yale
31 Be on your —!
32 Frigid and temperate
33 Pass, as a bill
34 Goes with
36 Lug or carry
40 Perfect
41 DeMille movies
44 Vast
47 Trying
49 Lost hair
50 Ceremonial dinners
53 Choir selection
54 Admission receipts
55 Turkish official
56 Last letters
57 Per person
59 Borodin prince
60 Ms. Lanchester of films
61 Take a breather
64 Meadow

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easy

			8			1	5	
8				5			2	
		2	1		6	7		3
1	6						9	
			3		4			
	4						6	8
4		6	7		9	8		
	8			3				1
	5	3			8			

hard

	3				7	5	4	
				2	3			1
2						9		
6			7	3	9			
	4	9				3	5	
			5	8	4			9
		8						5
5			3	1				
	6	2	4				7	

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Hexagon Word

Use the clues to fill in the spaces in the numbered hexagons. Each answer runs clockwise but can start anywhere in the shape. Where hexagons touch, they have the same letter. We've given you the first answer. The letters in the middle hexagon reveal a mystery keyword.

Clues:

1. Scary (movie)
2. Commotion
3. Scratch disinfectant
4. Anglican parish priest
5. Foolish talk
6. Conned

Mix 'n' Match

Take a set of letters from each column and combine them to form a nine-letter answer to each clue. Once finished, the remaining sets of letters will spell out another nine-letter word. This is your answer

Clues:

1. Entertaining
2. Bass or lead player
3. Tickled pink
4. Spectators
5. Frequently
6. Bandleader
7. Mentally pictured
8. Triumphs

CON	OYA	BLE
DEL	TAR	ERS
ENJ	IGH	GED
ENV	OOK	IST
GUI	ULA	IVE
LUC	DUC	RLY
ONL	ISA	SES
REG	RAT	TED
SUC	CES	TOR

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